

**ST HELENS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HANDWRITING POLICY**

**AIMS OF THE POLICY**

At St Helens Primary School, we believe pupils should take ownership of, and pride in, the neat presentation of work. We aim for our pupils to write legibly in both joined and printed styles with increasing fluency and speed and to know the importance of clear presentation in order to communicate meaning effectively. We aim to provide consistency in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years. Therefore, all staff are expected to use neat, cursive or continuous cursive writing for all handwriting tasks including board marking and feedback.

**TEACHING HANDWRITING**

Formal teaching of handwriting is to be carried out regularly and systematically in discrete lessons. It is also a cross-curriculum task to be taken into consideration during all lessons. Where possible, teaching handwriting to pupils using their left hand should be modelled by a left-handed teacher. Should teachers choose a 'patter' when teaching letter formation then they will use the Read, Write, Inc. rhymes. These have also been adapted for the use with cursive letter formation, to ensure continuity. When teaching cursive letter formation teachers will use the following model:

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

**HANDWRITING EXPECTATIONS**

**RECEPTION**

- Pupils will develop fine and gross control skills.
- Pupils will begin to develop the correct pencil grip.
- Pupils will learn to write the letters of their name, including capital letter.
- Pupils will learn to form the letters of the alphabet.
- Where teachers use 'patter' to help teach letter formation, they will use the Read, Write, Inc. rhymes.
- Pupils will learn to write numbers 0-9.

**YEAR ONE**

- Pupils will use the correct pencil grip.
- Pupils will continue to practise forming numbers 0-9.
- Pupils will learn to form capital letters.
- Pupils will learn to form the letters of the alphabet, using cursive letter formation.
- Where teachers use 'patter' to help teach letter formation they will use Read, Write, Inc. rhymes.

#### YEAR TWO

- Pupils will continue to practise forming capital letters.
- Pupils will learn to join their letters in a continuous cursive style.

#### YEAR THREE AND FOUR

- Pupils will continue to learn the continuous cursive style.
- Pupils will begin to develop the quality of their joined handwriting, focusing on size, ascenders, descenders and consistency.
- Pupils will develop their level of fluency.

#### YEAR FIVE AND SIX

- Pupils will continue to develop the quality of their joined handwriting, focusing on size, ascenders, descenders and consistency.
- Pupils will continue to develop their level of fluency.
- Pupils will develop a neat printed handwriting style for specific purposes and be aware of when to use this handwriting style.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

The Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team will monitor the presentation in books regularly, looking for the following:

- Legible writing.
- Consistency.
- Correctly formed, shaped and proportional letters.
- Correctly joined letters.
- Appropriate spacing between letters, words and lines.
- Writing aligned properly.
- The standard for handwriting is in line with the statutory requirements for that year group.